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ABSTRACT

This monograph traces the legal history of the conflict between constitutional rights of expression in the schools and school boards' control of education. Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the law and policy of free expression. Chapter 2 is a case study of "Kuhlmeier v. Hazelwood School District," in which a high school principal deleted two articles from the school newspaper. "Kuhlmeier" suggests that schools can exercise control over the style and content of student expression in school-sponsored activities as long as the schools' actions are reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns. Chapter 3 explores whether greater emphasis on administrative control of public education has meant movement away from student and faculty expression rights. An assessment of these questions involves a consideration of "Kuhlmeier," but also two other recent United States Supreme Court decisions, "New Jersey v. T.L.O." and "Bethel School District v. Fraser." Chapter 4 concludes the discussion with the observation that the judicial environment seems to have been adjusted to permit greater deference for the management decisions of school boards and administrators. Extensive references are appended to each chapter. (MLF)

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